

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAIGON 05227 180605Z

12

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

FDRE-00 SR-02 ORM-01 SCA-01 VO-03 IO-10 /077 W

----- 068670

R 180400Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5517

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 5227

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI PINT VS

SUBJECT: MORALE IMPROVED IN MR4

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM CAN THO 220 SENT ACTION SAIGON APRIL 17
BEING REPEATED TO YOU, QUOTE:

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAN THO 220

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI PINT VS

SUBJECT: MORALE IMPROVED IN MR4

1. MORALE OF POPULATION AND MILITARY IN MR4 HAS STIFFENED
WITHIN PAST WEEK. PEOPLE ARE BEGINNING TO ACCEPT FACT THAT
THERE IS NOW NOWHERE TO RUN TO AND ONLY HOPE OF AVOIDING VC
TAKEOVER IS TO STAND AND FIGHT. FORMER CHIEF OF STAFF OF
ARVN 21ST DIVISION TOLD ME THERE HAS BEEN PERCEPTIBLE IMPROVE-
MENT IN PERFORMANCE OF ARVN TROOPS AS HARSH REALITIES OF
SITUATION FACING COUNTRY BECOME CLEAR TO THEM. MOST OFFICERS
WITH WHOM WE HAVE DISCUSSED QUESTION OF TROOP MORALE HAVE
INDICATED SURPRISING IMPROVEMENT FOLLOWING LOW POINT AFTER
NEWS OF COLLAPSE IN NORTH. 21ST DIV COMMANDER SAID TODAY MORALE
OF HIS TROOPS IS HIGH.

2. CATHOLIC BISHOP OF CAN THO, NGUYEN NGOC QUANG, IN
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PASTORAL LETTER READ AT ALL MASSES LAST SUNDAY ADVISED

COMMUNICANTS TO REMAIN CALM IN PLACE AND NOT TO FLEE UNDER ANY
CIRCUMSTANCES. SAID CLERGY WOULD REMAIN WITH THEM.
UNDERSTAND LOCAL BUDDHIST LEADERS ARE QUIETLY GIVING SIMILAR
ADVICE TO THEIR FLOCK.
MCNAMARA UNQUOTE
MARTIN

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY PERSONNEL, COMBAT ZONES, PUBLIC ATTITUDES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: RowellE0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975SAIGON05227
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750136-0007
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750437/aaaabitw.tel
Line Count: 67
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: RowellE0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 JUL 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <20 NOV 2003 by RowellE0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MORALE IMPROVED IN MR4 FOLLOWING TELEGRAM CAN THO 220 SENT ACTION SAIGON APRIL 17
TAGS: MILI, PINT, VS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006